

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A document-searching system for searching a document having a hierarchical structure with elements separated by element identifiers, comprising:

a compiling device for generating [[a]] an XPATH query automaton by storing an input query expression, performing parsing, identifying different types of nodes in said element identifiers, wherein the compiling device generates and registers a state transition by replacing an XPATH axis including an XPATH axis in the opposite direction and a logical expression including a conjunction or a negative expression while keeping an input query expression equal in terms of search, wherein the compiling device generates a query automaton including a plurality of states of the backward nodes, a condition for transition, and at least a search state;

a query automaton storage device for storing the query automaton generated by said compiling device;

a query automaton evaluator for reading out said query automaton from said storage device and storing said automaton, while reading in said document and performing a stream search by using states of a plurality of different types of nodes in said element identifiers included in said document and said query automaton, said query automaton evaluator determining a state transition of a node under determination by storing a left node and a lower node in correspondence with an identified element identifier, and evaluating said query automaton with a search result of said left node and said lower node, and outputting the searched node and

a search result storage means for storing the output of the query automaton evaluator, and for thereafter outputting the stored output of the query automaton evaluator and the output of the searched node.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The document-searching system according to Claim 1, wherein said compiling device generates a query automaton with a state transition corresponding to an initial state, a final state, and a search state registered thereon.
4. (Currently Amended) A document-searching method for searching a document having a hierarchical structure with elements separated by element identifiers, comprising the steps of:

generating [[a]] an XPATH query automaton by storing a query expression input by a compiling device, performing parsing, and identifying different types of nodes in said element identifiers, by the steps of generating and registering a state transition by replacing an XPATH axis including an XPATH axis in the opposite direction and a logical expression including a conjunction or a negative expression while keeping an input query expression equal in terms of search, the query automaton including a plurality of states of the backward nodes, a condition for transition, and at least a search state, said query automaton evaluator determining a state transition of a node under determination by storing a left node and a lower node in correspondence with an identified element identifier, and evaluating said query automaton with a search result of said left node and said lower node;

storing the XPATH query automaton generated by said compiling device in a query automaton storage device; and

reading out said XPATH query automaton from said query automaton storage device and storing said query automaton, while reading in said document and performing a stream search with a query automaton evaluator by using states of a plurality of different types of nodes in said element identifiers included in said document and said query automaton, and

storing the output of the query automaton evaluator in a search result storage means for, and thereafter outputting the stored output of the query automaton evaluator and the output of the searched node.

5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The document-searching method according to Claim 4, wherein said step of generating [[a]] an XPATH query automaton comprises a step of generating [[a]] an XPATH query automaton with a state transition corresponding to an initial state, a final state, and a search state registered thereon.
7. – 9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-executable program for performing a document-searching method for searching a document having a hierarchical structure with elements separated by element identifiers, wherein said program causes a computer to perform the steps of:

functioning as a compiling device for generating [[a]] an XPATH query automaton by storing an input query expression, performing parsing, and identifying different types of nodes in said element identifiers, by the steps of generating and registering a state transition by replacing an XPATH axis including an XPATH axis in the

opposite direction and a logical expression including a conjunction or a negative expression while keeping an input query expression equal in terms of search, the query automaton including a plurality of states of the backward nodes, a condition for transition, and at least a search state, said query automaton evaluator determining a state transition of a node under determination by storing a left node and a lower node in correspondence with an identified element identifier, and evaluating said query automaton with a search result of said left node and said lower node;

storing a query automaton generated by said compiling device in a query automaton storage device;

functioning as a query automaton evaluator for reading out said query automaton from said storage device and storing said query automaton, while reading in said document and performing a stream search by using states of a plurality of different types of nodes in said element identifiers included in said document and said query automaton and

storing the output of the query automaton evaluator in a search result storage means, and thereafter outputting the stored output of the query automaton evaluator and the output of the searched node.

11. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 10, wherein said performance of a stream search determines a state transition of a node under determination at the moment by storing a left node and a lower node in correspondence with an identified element identifier, and evaluating said query automaton with a search result of said left node and said lower node, and wherein said query automaton is

generated as a query automaton with a state transition corresponding to an initial state, a final state, and a search state registered thereon.

12. – 13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A compiling method for generating a query automaton for performing a document search, comprising the steps of:
generating and registering a state transition by replacing an XPATH axis including an XPATH axis in the opposite direction and a logical expression including a conjunction or a negative expression while keeping an input query expression equal in terms of search, and storing a plurality of states of a backward node in correspondence with said backward node into a query automaton storage device;

generating a query automaton by registering a plurality of states of said backward node, a condition for transition, at least a search state, and a reached state in correspondence with each other in said storage device, performing parsing, and identifying different types of nodes in said element identifiers, by the steps of generating and registering a state transition by the query automaton including a plurality of states of the backward nodes, a condition for transition, and at least a search state, said query automaton evaluator determining a state transition of a node under determination by storing a left node and a lower node in correspondence with an identified element identifier, and evaluating said query automaton with a search result of said left node and said lower node and

storing the output of the query automaton evaluator in a search result storage means, and thereafter outputting the stored output of the query automaton evaluator and the output of the searched node.

15. (Original) The compiling method according to Claim 14, wherein said compiling method comprises a step of identifying said backward node as a left node or a lower node according to a type of said element identifier, and wherein said plurality of states are states of said left node and said lower node.

16. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to perform a compiling method for generating [[a]] an XPATH query automaton for performing a document search, wherein said program causes a computer to perform the steps of:

generating and registering a state transition by replacing an XPATH axis including an XPATH axis in the opposite direction and a logical expression including a conjunction or a negative expression while keeping an input query expression equal in term of search, and storing the plurality of states of a backward node in correspondence with said backward node into a storage device;

generating a query automaton by registering a plurality of states of said backward node, a condition for transition, at least a search state, and a reached state in correspondence with each other in said storage device, performing parsing, and identifying different types of nodes in said element identifiers, by the steps of generating and registering a state transition by replacing an XPATH axis including an XPATH axis in the opposite direction and a logical expression including a conjunction or a negative expression while keeping an input query expression equal in terms of search, the query automaton including a plurality of states of the backward nodes, a condition for transition, and at least a search state, said query automaton evaluator determining a state transition of a node under determination by storing a left node and a lower node in correspondence with an identified element

identifier, and evaluating said query automaton with a search result of said left node and said lower node and

storing the output of the XPATH query automaton evaluator in a search result storage means, and thereafter outputting the stored output of the query automaton evaluator and the output of the searched node

19. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 18, wherein said program comprises a step of causing a computer to identify said backward node as a left node or a lower node according to a type of said element identifier, and wherein said plurality of states are states of said left node and said lower node.
20. (Currently Amended) A document-searching system for searching a document having a hierarchical structure with elements separated by element identifiers, comprising:

a compiling device for generating a two-state input query automaton for enabling a state transition by storing an input query expression, performing parsing, and reading at least two states assigned to different types of nodes in said element identifiers, wherein the compiling device generates and registers a state transition by replacing an XPATH axis including an XPATH axis in the opposite direction and a logical expression including a conjunction or a negative expression while keeping an input query expression equal in terms of search, wherein the compiling device generates a query automaton including a plurality of states of the backward nodes, a condition for transition, and at least a search state, and wherein said two states are states of a left node and a lower node of a tree structure generated in correspondence with an identified element identifier, and wherein said two-state input automaton uses three states of said automaton-evaluating device;

an automaton query storage device for storing said two-state input automaton;

an automaton-evaluating device for enabling a state transition by reading out two-state input automaton from said storage device and storing said automaton, while reading in said document and identifying said two states node, and performing a stream search by using states of a plurality of different types of nodes in the element identifiers included in the document and the query automaton and

a search result storage means for storing the output of the query automaton evaluator, and for thereafter outputting the stored output of the query automaton evaluator and the output of the searched node.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A query automaton evaluator for evaluating a query automaton for searching a document having a hierarchical structure with elements separated by element identifiers, comprising:

means for reading out [[a]] an XPATH query automaton from a query automaton storage device and storing the XPATH query automaton, while reading in the document and performing a stream search by using states of a plurality of different types of nodes in the element identifiers included in the document and the query automaton;

means for identifying two different types of nodes included in said document, wherein states of a left node and a lower node in a tree structure are generated in correspondence with an identified element identifier;

means for assigning a state transition among three states including a search state by using said identified input and a plurality of inputs registered in said query automaton node and

a search result storage means for storing the output of the query automaton evaluator, and for thereafter outputting the stored output of the query automaton evaluator and the output of the searched node.